

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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**APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTIONS AGAINST MAN WHO POSED AS A
STATE TROOPER AND ASSAULTED FIVE WOMEN**

BROCKTON – Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today that the Massachusetts Appeals Court has upheld the convictions of an East Bridgewater man who posed as a State Trooper and police officer and raped four women and sexually assaulted a fifth woman.

On May 9, 2013, a Plymouth County jury deliberated three and half hours before convicting Peter Pearson, (DOB: 10-11-56), of East Bridgewater on four counts of Aggravated Rape, and two counts each of Kidnapping, Kidnapping as a lesser offense, impersonating a police officer and indecent assault and battery for the assaults upon five different women in the City of Brockton.

At trial, the Commonwealth presented evidence that over a period of 11 years from 1997 to August 2008, Pearson, who was a deputy fire chief with Boston Fire, impersonated a State Trooper to coerce five women into his car. He used a badge, often a hand held radio and spoke of his police work as a state trooper to further his pretext as an officer and ultimately forced four of the five women to perform oral sex.

On Appeal, Pearson principally claimed that the identifications used at trial were inadmissible. Several victims came forward after Pearson was arrested and appeared on news coverage of the case. The Appeals Court rejected this claim. Pearson also claimed that evidence found in his car should have been suppressed but the motion judge correctly found that it was admissible where it would have been inevitably discovered in an inventory search.

The Appeals Court rejected Pearson's argument on improper first complaint where the defendant attacked the credibility of the victims at trial. The Appeals Court found that all the charges were properly joined.

"We are pleased with the Appeals Court decision today," DA Cruz said. "For 11 years, Mr. Pearson posed as a member of law enforcement and used the power and trust of a badge to prey upon these five women and terrorize them. These same women came to trial and mustered

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the strength to face their attacker and help convict him. Today's decision will hopefully reaffirm that feeling of justice for those involved with this case."

The case was investigated by Brockton Police and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sharon E. Donatelle and Assistant District Attorney Shelby Smith. Assistant District Attorney Mary Lee handled the case on appeal for the Commonwealth.

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